

Grand King Cassandra

Story and Plot Line

Prelude: summary of Ritanh's* political and economic condition.

Introduction of main characters Cassandra Streit and Emily Wasima.

-Cassandra's Backstory-

Born and orphaned to a group of scholars. Learned and excelled in history, politics, and communication theory. Gains the ability to manipulate the intensity of conflicts, in any sense. Origin of this power is unknown (implementation of this power is to match the theme of the story). After reaching adulthood, she travels away from 'home' to bring herself up as the new leader of Achos.

Carries a black journal to record every conflict she manipulates.

Estimation goes that once 1 thousand conflicts are recorded, her power has been mastered.

-Emily's Backstory-

Grew up into the anarchic rebellion. She had embraced the widespread chaos without question, only because she did not understand the story behind the side she took. Only after losing her family to a shoot-out with a gang, she thought things needed to change. It's based on this experience that she has a neurotic mentality, and/or be the devil's advocate for Cassandra.

*- *Change Ritanh to Achos. Ritanh is more difficult to pronounce.*

Chapter 1

Quote: *"A leader is best when people barely know he exists; when his work is done, his aim fulfilled, they will say, 'we did it ourselves.'"*

- Lao Tsu

The girls do some supply and goods hunting through some abandoned sheds and storage buildings.

- Cassandra uses power to enter building. Alludes to the extent of her power.

- Have her open the black journal beforehand to create red herring.

- Comedic moment at end of chapter. Brings Cassandra to seek new clothes.

Chapter 2

Quote: *"He that is of the opinion money will do everything may well be suspected of doing everything for money."*

- Benjamin Franklin

The girls continue searching into another building, finding some interesting items and memorabilia.

- Cassandra finds purple longskirt. Reference to Western custom that Purple = Royalty.

- Emily finds an old child's bank. Goes into mention of Cassandra's economic plan once she goes into rule.

- Cassandra finds a box of hard lemonade. Comes into play later (Logan's gang playing with a drunken Cassandra).

Chapter 3

Quote: *"People are more violently opposed to fur than leather because it's safer to harass rich women than motorcycle gangs."*

- Alexei Sayle

A gang comes into the area. The girls are forced to negotiate with them.

- The girls try to sneak around them first, until they're spotted. A reference to the way they approach their goal.

- Emily offers the child's bank. It almost works, until the gang discovers how little money there is.

- The girls escape without a scratch, thanks to Cassandra's ability. This will only be implied.

- "I thought a felt a poke somewhere back there."

"Really? I thought they were terrible shots."

Chapter 4

Quote: *"The thing is, and Americans are starting to realize this now, that while street gangs are violent, the Democrats and Republicans are worse. They are worse because their decisions affect your life."*

- Jesse Ventura

The girls find an abandoned restaurant to shelter up in, and discuss further plans.

- The name of the restaurant is "Sheila's Cafe".
- Emily questions why Cassandra didn't manipulate the gangmembers to being open to negotiation. Addresses the black journal and explains Cassandra's new methods in using her power.
 - "I can't use my gift willy-nilly anymore."
- After tidying the place up, they find a still-functioning stereo. Comes into play later (first signs of Lars' gang*).
- End chapter with the girls drinking the last of their water.

* - *Change Lars' name to Logan.*

Chapter 5

Quote: *"I don't like formal gardens. I like wild nature. It's just the wilderness instinct in me, I guess."*

- Walt Disney

Emily searches for water, and encounters a feral child. Chapter revolves around a fight.

- Cassandra stays behind to organize food items. Gives a mention of reluctance in doing so.
- Emily reflects on this event in a later chapter (going more in depth about the role Cassandra plays in her life).
- Feral child will be apparently younger than Emily, thus making her debate with herself of whether to fight or flee.

Chapter 6

Quote: *"When rich people fight wars with one another, poor people are the ones to die."*

- Jean-Paul Sartre

Emily returns with bruises and scratches, followed by discussion of the 'haves and have-nots'.

- Give mention of Emily showing some sympathy towards who were once-privileged people. Cassandra has an opposing viewpoint.
 - "What about the ones that never were involved? Everything they had was taken away for something they didn't do. War overwhelmed their peace."
- End chapter with Emily pulling out a book titled, "Fury in the Melon Vines", in reference to "The Grapes of Wrath".

Chapter 7

Quote: *"How true Daddy's words were when he said, 'all children must look after their own upbringing. Parents can only give good advice or put them on the right paths, but the final forming of a person's character lies in their own hands.'"*

- Anne Frank

On another storage rummaging, Emily asks Cassandra about her upbringing. Explores the scholars that raised her.

- Trigger the conversation with a discovered photo album.
- Cassandra's mother died of illness shortly after she was born.
- Discussion branches to the next chapter.
 - "So how did they feel about your power?"

Chapter 8

Quote: *"I was not a messiah, but an ordinary man who had become a leader because of extraordinary circumstances."*

- Nelson Mandela

A continuation of the previous chapter's conversation. Goes into hypothesizing Cassandra's ability*.

- Sociology scholar proposes a parapsychological explanation.
 - "She unlocked a power that anyone could if they knew how."
- History scholar proposes a religious/supernatural explanation.
 - "She is an angel of God, prophesized to save us."
- Law scholar proposes an evolutionary explanation.
 - "She's the next step to mankind's evolution."
- Psychology scholar accepts ignorance and is Cassandra's concluding piece of the conversation.
 - "She has this power, that's it. We'll never truly know where she got it."
- Emily will take reference to this conversation later on (questioning Cassandra's goal).

*- **KEEP EACH THEORY CONCISE!**

Chapter 9

Quote: *"The right man, in the right place, at the right time, can steal millions."*

- Gregory Nunn

Emily pulls out the stereo, and accidentally receives a transmission from a (relatively) close-by radio station. Vague introduction of Logan's gang.

- Emily obtains CDs from their last rummaging. This is her reason to bring out the stereo.

- The transmission reveals the girls' location as the town of Thomaston. It also briefly mentions how the gang is heavily armed.

- Travel to the location* will take 7-8 hours on foot (3.6 km/h (average walking speed), 27 km away).

*- *City will be named Norris Rock.*

Chapter 10

Quote: *"It is we the workers who built these palaces and cities here in Spain and in America and everywhere. We, the workers, can build others to their place. And better ones! We are not the least afraid of ruins."*

- Buenaventura Durruti

The girls arrive at the city they received the transmission from. The chapter describes the conditions of the location.

- The girls are being followed by Logan's scouts.

- A trio of women in hijabs repeatedly appear, to Emily's great suspicion. She reflects how turban-wearing gang members killed her family. Cassandra gives reassurance, giving what's a subtle jab at the American right-wing perspective of muslims.

- "Come on, Emily, you can't expect every person with cloth around their heads to have lunacy wrapped around themselves, too."

- General environment is cityscape ruins, but most occupied areas appear decently fruitful.

Chapter 11

Quote: *"I am not afraid of an army of lions led by a sheep; I am afraid of an army of sheep led by a lion."*

- Alexander the Great

The radio station is found. A barricade of gangmembers surprise the girls, wanting to know why they intrude on their territory. Introduces Cole, Logan's second-in-command.

- Comedy-focused chapter.
- Cassandra speaks with a 'scratch our back' approach, while Emily attempts to enforce a 'we'll scratch yours' approach.
- End chapter just before the meeting with Logan.

Chapter 12

Quote: *"When a trans woman is called a man, that is an act of violence."*

- Laverne Cox

The girls meet Logan with the intent of forming an alliance.

- Enhance Logan's temper. Angry FTM is not enough meat.
- Logan is hesitant despite Cassandra's reason. Heavy commentary of transgenderism within dialogue. Tone it down.
- Emily frequently misgenders Logan, though not on purpose.
- Logan has a New York-esque accent, for easier distinction.
- End chapter with Cassandra and Logan being left alone.

Chapter 13

Quote: *"In order to exist, man must rebel, but rebellion must respect the limits that it discovers in itself - limits where minds meet, and in meeting, begin to exist."*

- Albert Camus

Discussion between Logan and Cassandra continues, the latter unknowing that Emily is in danger.

- Threat is revealed at the end of the chapter.
- Logan mentions irritation with being misgendered, but this is not the cause for Emily's kidnapping. Rather, it's to test Cassandra.
 - "Sounds like you have everyone supporting your cause. I'm not so easy to convince. Just prove who you really are. It's that easy."

Chapter 14

Quote: *"Here we are, trapped in the amber of the moment. There is no why."*

- Kurt Vonnegut

Cassandra is kept trapped within the gang's base, and must convince Logan to aid them.

- Logan makes a 6-hour time limit for Cassandra to succeed. If she fails, Emily will be killed.

- Cassandra will be debating with herself as to whether or not to use her power. In the end, she decides not to use it on Logan himself, but Cole.

- She uses it to provoke Cole, and under his attack, use it to protect herself. This is intended to convince Cole to put in a good word.

- Despite her situation, Emily remains calm. Gangmembers have various reactions to this.

- End chapter with Cassandra re-entering Logan's office.

Chapter 15

Quote: *"Worry compounds the futility of being trapped on a dead-end street. Thinking opens new avenues."*

- Cullen Hightower

Cassandra attempts once more to convince Logan to work with her, with much higher stakes.

- Cole will vouch for Cassandra, but Logan remains questionable.

- Cassandra offers to have herself killed before Emily. Logan agrees, unaware of her capabilities.

- Emily makes a bet with the gangmembers to fight them 1-on-1, while tied. They refuse at first, but are provoked by a snarky remark.

- "Aww, you do have hearts! And here I thought you guys were mindless flunkies with no honor."

- End chapter just before fight happens.

Chapter 16

Quote: *"Football is a simple game. Twenty-two men chase a ball for 90 minutes and at the end, the Germans always win."*

- Gary Lineker

Logan tries to kill Cassandra. A rampage and chase ensues.

- Logan makes repeated attempts, and keeps failing. Firepower increases up to a grenade launcher.

- Cassandra feigns fear, and lures Logan to Emily's location. Once there, she stays put.

- Comedic moment: Logan explodes the hostage room, and Emily's seen with a gangmember in a leg lock.
- End chapter with a tired and frustrated Logan collapsing to the ground.

Chapter 17

Quote: *"Make the best of what is in your power, and take the rest as it happens."*

- Epictetus

Cassandra and Emily reunite. Logan laments of having lost their power and influence to only two girls.

- Cassandra's offer still stands. She goes into how Achos refused to give up grudges in the past.

- Building starts to collapse from structural damage. The girls are wedged into a tight spot.

- Cassandra prevents rubble from crushing them both, but comments how this consistent use of her power is wearing her down. They both show signs of breaking down.

- A convinced (redeemed?) Logan and Cole will help them out at the beginning of the next chapter. Keep Logan's being persuaded ambiguous prior.

Chapter 18

Quote: *"The pattern of the prodigal is: rebellion, ruin, repentance, reconciliation, restoration."*

- Edwin Louis Cole

Logan agrees to help Cassandra's cause, his surviving gangmembers following their new command suit.

- Now without a base, Cassandra aids with moving Logan and company to Thomaston. Emily remains distant.

- First signs of Emily's skepticism towards Cassandra.

- A newly-abandoned semi-truck will be discovered. Comes into play later (traveling to Phantom Mamba's city, and spreading word of Cassandra across Achos).

Chapter 19

Quote: *"Love all, trust a few, do wrong to none."*

- William Shakespeare

Emily converses with Cassandra about letting Logan and his crew join them on their journey.

- Emily gives clear criticism of Cassandra's willingness to forgive Logan. She mentions and reinforces her viewpoint with the encounter with the feral child.

- Cassandra counters with how Achos was prior to the anarchy.

- "Achos had self-absorbed, corrupt politicians who believed the people didn't truly matter, only their power. People get tired of being told they don't matter. I'm here to support. Oppression is no ideology I accept, Emily."

Chapter 20

Quote: *"The first recipe for happiness is: avoid too lengthy meditation on the past."*

- Andre Maurois

A frustrated Emily seeks alone time. She reflects on how she came to know Cassandra.

- Delves into the girls' first meeting, and the progress they've made. Emily ponders if and how much Cassandra may have tampered with their friendship using her powers, leading her to more doubt.

- The feral child encounter is reintroduced, in a different context. Emily views the positives here.

- Reveals that the black journal was a gift from Emily.

- End chapter with Emily leaving.

-End of First Story Arc-

Chapter 21

Quote: *"When was the last time you heard news accounts of a boatload of American refugees arrive on the shores of another country?"*

- Marco Rubio

While searching for Emily, one of Logan's scouts discovers a group of people passing through town. Introduces the religious nomads.

- Cole initially interrogates them like he did with the girls, but is stopped by Cassandra.

- "Don't do that. You're plenty scary alone, big guy."

- The group reveals they are being pursued by a different gang. Introduces the Phantom Mambas.

- Nomads find fear in Cassandra and her goal. Subtle commentary of the right-wing religious/traditionalist perspective.

Chapter 22

Quote: *"Terrorism, ladies and gentlemen, in my eyes I have a very, very, very simple explanation. Gangs of criminals, killers, used unfortunately by certain governments in the past for political purposes, who are on their own now as gangs."*

- Hamid Karzai

Emily is traveling down a road, and encounters members of the Phantom Mambas.

- The gangmembers take a liking to Emily, despite her evident distrust of them. She slowly grows to sympathize with them, though.

- Emily will make a snarky remark when asked about the religious nomads.

- "You know where we can find some religious nuts?"

- "They're everywhere if you drive far enough."

- The gang's second-in-command is present, but will remain silent in this chapter.

- Emily will be left alone in spite of the mix of support and teasing from the gangmembers.

- End chapter with her realizing where they are headed, and running back to Thomaston.

Chapter 23

Quote: *"Great leaders are almost always great simplifiers, who can cut through argument, debate, and doubt, to offer a solution everybody can understand."*

- Colin Powell

The nomads hesitantly take refuge with Cassandra and company. Logan makes concerned conversation with Cole.

- The conversation starts with skepticism towards the nomads, then turns gradually back to Emily's wellbeing.

- Cole brings mention to Logan's leadership skills. Shows contrast between his and Cassandra's methods, albeit they have similar goals.
- End chapter with a scout discovering the Phantom Mambas approaching the town.

Chapter 24

Quote: *"Sadism is not an infectious disease that strikes a person all of a sudden. It has a long prehistory in childhood and always originates in the desperate fantasies of a child who is searching for a way out of a hopeless situation."*

- Alice Miller

The Phantom Mambas arrive in Thomaston, and shake down the crew as they search for the nomads.

- When asked where the nomads are, Cassandra replies altruistically, getting cut off with a hard slap on the face.
 - "You guys hiding some freaks from us?"
 - "We're happy to provide refuge to just about anyo--"
- Brief cut to Emily hitching a ride with a lagging Mamba member.
 - This member openly carries a rifle. Comes into play soon.
- Logan aims a firearm towards the squad's leader, but holds back on Cassandra's command.
- End chapter with a distant motorbike's revving. Emily is back.

Chapter 25

Quote: *"Whenever anyone has offended me, I try to raise my soul so high that the offense cannot reach it."*

- Rene Descartes

Cassandra persists on negotiating, to no avail. Emily appears in defense of her friend.

- The squad leader mentions being tired of negotiation, always getting tricked or ripped off in the past.
- Emily is provoked when the rifleman tranquilizes Cassandra and company.
 - A gangmember remarks about the black journal, and tosses it far away in the middle of the street.
- End chapter with Emily landing a firm right-hook on the squad leader.

Chapter 26

Quote: *"Man is a competitive creature, and the seeds of conflict are built deep into our genes. We fought each other on the savannah and only survived against great odds by organizing ourselves into groups which would have had a common purpose, giving morale and fortitude."*

- Robert Winston

Emily comes back with her fists flying. However, the odds quickly turn against her.

- The squad leader makes an order for his gang to keep down. He prefers a fair fight.

- Morale for Emily changes when the leader starts talking about Cassandra deceiving her, "like every politician". He starts to physically have his way with her as he speaks.

- End chapter with a recovering Cassandra drowsily witnessing Emily being beaten into unconsciousness.

Chapter 27

Quote: *"Next to hurting my family, cheating on me is the worst thing someone could do."*

- Robert Buckley

Cassandra revives, now angered with her beaten best friend. She uses her powers to assert herself with the Phantom Mambas.

- The leader tries to punch out Cassandra, breaking his knuckles.

- Cassandra retrieves the black journal before doing anything.

- Show her flipping pages just before using her abilities.

- The gangmembers unload their whole magazines, to no avail.

- Cassandra taps the leader to the ground, followed by stepping on and breaking his femur.

- "I'm willing to protect anyone within diplomatic means. That girl, however, is part of me. You push her to the ground, I push you down to Hell."

Chapter 28

Quote: *"It is better to lead from behind and to put others in front, especially when you celebrate victory when nice things occur. You take the front line when there is danger. Then people will appreciate your leadership."*

- Nelson Mandela

The Phantom Mambas retreat, and the nomads celebrate Cassandra's victory.

- The nomads stay with Cassandra to aid her cause. Plays a red herring later on (capital city conquest).
- They also frequently refer to Cassandra being blessed, or a miracle worker of God. She rebukes their conclusions.
- Logan and Cole recover, with a light-hearted mention of their previous conversation.
- "You were right. Thanks."
- "No no no, I'm not the one who needs to hear that."
- End chapter with an exhausted Cassandra lying and falling asleep next to Emily.

Chapter 29

Quote: *"Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around."*

- Leo Buscaglia

The crew takes a night to celebrate Cassandra's cause. Logan visits a bruised Emily.

- The hard lemonade is busted out. Cassandra is challenged to drink without using her powers. Goes into effect next chapter.
- Logan shows gratitude to Emily for accepting him in their cause. This gesture causes her to be more trusting of him.
- End chapter with both of them returning inside the restaurant.

Chapter 30

Quote: *"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."*

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

The gang begins to act rather rambunctious with the furniture, no thanks to Cassandra.

- As soon as Emily and Logan enter, two members pick up chairs and ram into each other. One hardly flinches while the other is sent tumbling. A drunken Cassandra is abusing her power.

- At the sight of Cassandra being persuaded into recklessness, Emily begins to develop fearful thoughts.

- End chapter with a gunshot and a posted message from the Phantom Mambas. Mention goes to how the actual gang leader is moved by her endeavors, and wishes to engage in a fight for territory.

Chapter 31

Quote: *"Tolerance implies no lack of commitment to one's own beliefs. Rather it condemns the oppression or persecution of others."*

- John F. Kennedy

The next morning, the crew discuss the new threat and how to approach it.

- The mentioned threats go in stages, based on each week they refrain from coming:

- One week: snipers wound different crewmates.

- Two weeks: snipers kill 3 gangmembers.

- Three weeks: Logan, Cole and Emily are kidnapped.

- Four weeks: All allies are killed.

- Five weeks: Cassandra is killed.

- The Phantom Mamba's territory* is 50 km away. The crew suggests searching for vehicular support. Reintroduces the abandoned semi-truck.

- Cassandra immediately agrees, and the gangmember drives off.

*- *Name of capital city is Stegrot.*

Chapter 32

Quote: *"What a lot of people don't realize about gangs, in my opinion, is that a gang is not there to attack you. Eighty percent of the people in a gang are there to stop people from attacking them. You join a gang for protection, not to go out and hit someone."*

- Michael Caine

While the crew tries to get the truck up and running, Emily asks about the Phantom Mambas. Explores the gang's dynamics, history, and code.

- Phantom Mambas were founded by the first radical rebels back before anarchy took over Achos. They took over the capital city after assaulting and murdering as many political figures as they could.

- They are violently against any religious movements, believing that they would rise to power and the corrupt cycle would begin again.

- Logan's crew were former members. After realizing how much worse the problem was getting, they left.

- Introduces Griffith, the Phantom Mamba leader.

- The mention causes Emily to reflect on her previous self.

Chapter 33

Quote: *"Let every nation know whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, and oppose any foe to assure the success and survival of liberty."*

- John F. Kennedy

The truck is mechanically sound again, but there's no gas. Everyone heads for Norris Rock.

- During their travel, Logan asks Cassandra about her plans for foreign policies. She says that since Achos is crippled, there will be no hesitation to call for help upon other nations.

- Logan also inquires why no other countries have come and tried to take over Achos yet.

Chapter 34

Quote: *"In every war, there's looting."*

- Cate Blanchett

Rummaging through Norris Rock begins.

- The whole group split into two parts. Logan leads one, Cassandra leads the other.

- When Emily gets the chance to be alone with Cassandra, she mentions the concerns she had the other night.

- Comedic moment with Cassandra being embarrassed about letting herself get drunk.

- Other comedic moment when Cassandra forgets what they're all searching for.

- End chapter with single gunshot nearby.

Chapter 35

Quote: *"How can anybody hate nurses? Nobody hates nurses. The only time you hate a nurse is when they're giving you an enema."*

- Warren Beatty

Upon finding a gas station, one of the gangmembers is shot in the leg.

- Wound is from a shotgun shot, so pellets are scattered across the shin and thigh.

- Cassandra is called for aid. She mentions that she can only pull the lodged pellets out, but has no medical knowledge. Shows Cassandra is not always as helpful or smart as people believe.

- Emily intervenes to help the wounded gangmember. She asserts that the others collect the gasoline. A moment of leadership for Emily. Cassandra observes with pride in her.

Chapter 36

Quote: *"Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable. Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals."*

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

After some time to rest and allow the wounded to heal, Logan shares thoughts of occupying the capital city.

- Cassandra admits that claiming the turf would mean the beginning of action as Achos' new leader.

- Logan questions what sort of govt. she plans to create. Cassandra is labeled a king, despite refuting monarchy.

- Cassandra discusses positions of power for everybody, though she handwaves Emily as 2nd-in-command. Comes into play later.

Chapter 37

Quote: *"Before anything else, preparation is the key to success."*

- Alexander Graham Bell

The crew return to Thomaston, and begin strategizing for the fight with the Phantom Mambas.

- The religious nomads will serve as distractions for Mamba infantry once they enter Stegrot. They mention being willing to sacrifice themselves for the cause.

- The semi truck will have two trailers. Logan's scouts will provide firepower from the top of the semi's first trailer while the second carries Cassandra and non-offensive company.

- First goal is to drive as far as the congress building lot. Cassandra will go inside to confront the leader alone.

- Second goal is making sure no reinforcements help the Mamba's leader in facing Cassandra. Likely the most dangerous task.

- Third goal is driving all Mambas out of the city. Cassandra proposes they join unless said otherwise.

- This is mostly Logan's strategizing. Acknowledgement of Griffith is given.

- "This is the best plan we've got... but we can't forget who we're really up against."

Chapter 38

Quote: *"Men kick friendship around like a football, but it doesn't seem to crack. Women treat it like glass, and it goes to pieces."*

- Anne Morrow Lindbergh

Cassandra and Emily have a heart-to-heart talk the following night.

- Largely similar to Chapter IV in the short story version. Whole chapter must be padded out.

Chapter 39

Quote:

The next morning, Emily tries to sneak a look into Cassandra's black journal to quell her suspicions once and for all.

- The journal is kept close to a wall parallel to Cassandra's position, so Emily must be careful yet quick with the page-turning.

- End the chapter with Cassandra waking, Emily only being able to glance at what looks like her name.

Chapter 40

Quote: *"Wherever you go, go with all your heart."*

- Confucius

The whole crew goes over the battle plan briefly before they go on their way to Stegrot.

- Emily is distracted with trying to figure out what she saw in the journal, but remains onboard with the plan.

- Logan howls as they begin the road trip. Comedic moment with Cole trying to pull them back in.

- End chapter with Cassandra allowing Emily to peek into her journal. Reveals that Cassandra used the most of her powers to allow Emily the strength to possibly get out of the rubble from the falling radio station. Keep this moment as heartwarming as possible.

-End of Second Story Arc-

Chapter 41

Quote: *"There is no such thing as paranoia. Your worst fears can come true at any moment."*

- Hunter S. Thompson

During the drive, tension rises as one of Logan's scouts is shot and wounded again.

- Wound is from rifle shot into the shoulder this time. Logan suspects one of his own to be a mole, but Cole quells their concern with mentioning Griffith.

- Briefly explores Griffith's character again, now from Cole's perspective.

- End chapter with Logan and Cole nonverbally worrying over Cassandra and Emily.

Chapter 42

Quote: *"The oldest and strongest emotion of mankind is fear, and the oldest and strongest kind of fear is fear of the unknown."*

- H.P. Lovecraft

The crew enters Stegrot, to find that no Mambas are present.

- Though no gangmembers are there, there are civilians hiding away throughout the city. The location is noticeably more in ruin than Norris Rock.

- The whole cast is able to arrive at the front of the congress building totally unscathed. Several minutes pass without any contact.

- Logan and Cole take small squads to scout the area. After a short time being out of sight, a single woman comes out of the building and invites Cassandra inside.

- Emily follows behind, without their knowledge.

- End chapter with Cassandra entering an office room, the woman closing the door behind her.

Chapter 43

Quote: *"If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the outcome of a hundred battles."*

- Sun Tzu

Cassandra is acquainted directly with Griffith. Their conversation paints a new picture than what everyone was expecting.

- Griffith is much more polite and sophisticated than the typical Phantom Mamba. Metaphor for current politicians and the shady relations they may arrange.

- Griffith's abilities are only subtly implied in this chapter.

- End chapter with him proposing that he and Cassandra work together to take charge of Achos.

Chapter 44

Quote: *"It is folly for a man to pray to the gods that which he has the power to obtain by himself."*

- Epicurus

After refusing his offer, Cassandra and Griffith gradually test each other's powers.

- Starts out subtle (debates), and builds up in intensity as the chapter goes on (exchanging hits).

- Emily is about to interfere after hearing blows, but the woman from before gets in her way.

- The woman will try to convince Emily to switch sides. End chapter with Emily knocking her out in one punch.

Chapter 45

Quote: *"We have it in our power to begin the world over again."*

- Thomas Paine

Griffith and Cassandra's quarrel continues. Cassandra's real offensive ability is made known.

- Griffith allows Emily her own chance to fight, but to no avail. She is knocked unconscious with two kicks.

- Emily's leg is broken.

- When Cassandra uses the anti-gravity trick, Griffith breaks a window to force fierce winds against her.

- Logan and company are alerted by the broken window, and immediately make their way towards the struggle.

- End chapter with Cassandra being knocked into a room where all the other Mambas are waiting.

- She drops her black journal, which Griffith takes.

Chapter 46

Quote: *"An injured lion still wants to roar."*

- Randy Pausch

Cassandra's strength and capacity to fight is waning. Griffith explains his own power and motives.

- Any time Cassandra tries to speak or fight, the Mambas restrain her with gunfire.

- A Mamba mentions how the room is getting warmer.

- End chapter with Cassandra seeing the unconscious Emily, and using the last of her strength to sear the Mambas with friction burns.

- She herself goes unconscious.

Chapter 47

Quote: *"If you look at great human civilizations, from the Roman Empire to the Soviet Union, you will see that most do not fail simply due to external threats but because of internal weakness, corruption, or a failure to manifest the values and ideals they espouse."*

- Cory Booker

Logan and company arrive, with Griffith attempting to escape.

- Cassandra wakes up, but needs assistance moving. Emily remains unconscious.

- As the crew chases Griffith outdoors, more gangmembers appear to give resistance.

- The nomads are seen as a pile of dead bodies.

- The woman from before visibly shoots one of Logan's scouts in the arm, making herself known as the sniper.

- Mention of a black eye because of Emily.

Chapter 48

Quote: *"A true king is neither husband nor father; he considers his throne and nothing else."*

- Pierre Corneille

With Logan's gang and Phantom Mambas prepared to go at each other, Cassandra speaks out and tries winning them over.

- Griffith remains confident in his role over the Mambas, but he's unaware how much his fight with Cassandra has worn his own powers out.

- Cassandra's speech involves causing the Mambas to reflect, the pains everyone must go through in Achos' current state, and what Griffith's rule has done for them.

- End chapter with a Mamba silently unloading their weapons.

Chapter 49

Quote: *"Surely God would not have created such a being as man, with an ability to grasp the infinite, to exist only for a day! No, no, man was made for immortality."*

- Abraham Lincoln

Cassandra successfully persuades the Mambas, and Griffith is taken as their own prisoner.

- Before Griffith is taken away, Logan breaks his leg to repay what he did to Emily.

- Cole carries a still-unconscious Emily to Cassandra. Emily briefly awakens for Cassandra to tell her they won. Emily smiles and makes a comment before falling asleep again.

- "Can I break his leg later?"

- End chapter with everyone questioning Cassandra on what's next.

Chapter 50 (FINAL CHAPTER)

Quote: *"In every community, there is work to be done. In every nation, there are wounds to heal. In every heart, there is the power to do it."*

- Marianne Williamson

2 weeks later, people from several corners of Achos are to gather for Cassandra to speak to them.

- Largely similar to the end of Chapter VIII in short story version.
Whole chapter must be padded out.